

October 2017

Rhodo News

Newsletter 401



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Patrons: (International) Kenneth Cox, (Tasmania) Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Kate Warner

We Have a New Board!



And these are not them.....

But we hope to introduce you shortly!

Our new Board of Directors was ratified at the AGM and had their first meeting last weekend. They are Belinda Neilson, Carolyn Watson-Paul, Ant Dry, Graeme McShane, Peter Gordon and Steve Green. The board provides vision, experience, direction and ideas. Our old Chairman Geoff is now formally called General Manager.

Calendar

Sunday 15th October

Social Meeting
EVRG at 2pm

Wednesday 11th October

First Cruise Ship!

Saturday 21st Oct

Cherry Blossom Festival
EVRG at 10-3pm

See us at: emuvallayrhodo.com.au

In The Garden

Oh we're from Tigerland, a fighting fury, we're from Tigerland... WHAT A WIN! And I've still got a silly grin on my face as I walk around the place.

Out of the rhododendron seeds that I put into 'Kupsch's Cubbies' last month, only one variety has decided to show any form of life – for now . This is *Rhododendron orbiculatum*- (vireya). See below.



Now: *(A month since being sown and we have a tinge of green)*



Then: *In five to six years time*

Neet's top 3 gardening tips for the month:

- 1) Remove weeds from the lawn either by hand if you only have a few (aren't you lucky), making sure you get roots and all or by using a weed 'n' feed available on hose or granules. Once the weeds have died, thicken the lawn up by sowing seed.
- 2) Spring is the time to be on pest watch! Keep an eye on new growth as the aphids, thrip and lace bug are the repeat offenders every year along with other critters of course. The lady birds can only do so much so to get on top of this before it gets out of control is the best way, and can be treated with confidor or pyrethrum or if you only have a few plants to save, perhaps you could make up your own mix. 2 cups of vegetable oil and half a cup of washing up detergent and mix together. This then is the concentrated white oil. Two dessert spoons (30mls) of the concentrated mix per litre of water should do the trick.
- 3) Trim and tidy all flower heads from winter, fertilize plants and shrubs to give them an extra kick as they come into their most important flowering time and when planting in new areas, add a handful of organic matter to the soil and dig in well. Any extra nutrients that you can give your garden will always be of benefit in the long run.

Happy Gardening everyone and see you at our Cherry Blossom Celebration day. *Neet*

General Manager's Report

On behalf of all members a big welcome to EMU Valley's Board of Directors -- Belinda Neilson, Carolyn Watson-Paul, Ant Dry ,Graeme McShane, Peter Gordon and Steve Green. The Board met for the first time on 3 October. It is a truly talented team and I am sure Emu Valley will benefit under their guidance

Cherry Blossom Celebration - if you have any flyers or posters you are not able to distribute please hand them into the office and likewise if you need some just call in and collect them. Also if you are able to come on 21 October it would be helpful if you could show your membership card as it will make it easier for the volunteers collecting the entry fee.

The Australian Rhododendron Society will be holding its annual conference at Emu Valley on Saturday 4 November. The main part of the conference will take place from 1130 to about 1p.m and all members are invited to come along and join in with the various delegates from other gardens.

Geoff 0427722060 / geoffreywood@me.com



R. oreodoxa var. fargesii

Rhododendron fargesii was first discovered by Pere Farges (so named after him) between 1891 and 1894 at Techenkeou-tin in east Sichuan. Also by E. H. Wilson in western Hupeh and in Sichuan. In 1932 it was again collected at Pei-ma shan, Mekong-Yangtze Divide, north-west Yunnan growing in mixed forests at elevations of 2000-4000 metres.

Usually a shrub from 1-6 metres in the wild but in cultivation may only reach half this height. The leaves are oblong-elliptic, the upper surface olive-green and underside pale glaucous and covered with minute pimples. Flowers can be white, pink, rose or deep rose with or without spots and will have between 5

and 10 per truss. Rhododendron fargesii is closely related to R. oreodoxa and has been made a variety of the latter.

At Emu Valley we grow R. oreodoxa var. fargesii in Sichuan and Yunnan and it flowers mid-September onwards. More plantings in Hupeh will take place soon. It can be viewed on the right hand side of the Noel Sullivan Walk in Yunnan just past the yellow flowered R. sinofalconeri. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.
PO Box 39 Burnie, Tasmania 7320